

# ROTTING OF THE DAY

## ALGER INCOMPETENT.

As was to be expected, the report of the commission appointed by the President to investigate the conduct of the war department gives Alger a liberal coat of whitewash, and yet the coat is not so thick that Alger stands purely white before the public.

Appointed by the administration for the purpose of sustaining the administration, the commission has failed to find any substantial truth in the charges of inefficiency on the part of the war department. The facts that soldiers died of neglect, that they were served with food unfit to eat, herded in pest camps and shipped like cattle in pest ships are denied, and that is supposed to settle the matter.

As a matter of fact the question is far from settled. There are hundreds of fathers and mothers right here in Chicago who know from sad, many of them from heartbreaking experience that their sons were neglected and treated with great inhumanity during the war with Spain. Whitewash will not answer. The charges will not go down and Congress will have to investigate.

But in spite of its great anxiety to exonerate the administration from all blame, or rather to prove that no blame should be attached to the administration, the commission was forced by the facts to say:

"In the judgment of the commission there was lacking in the general administration of the war department during the continuance of the war with Spain that grasp of the situation which was essential to the highest efficiency and discipline of the army."

This is a serious charge, although couched in the most conservative language. In plain terms, Alger was incompetent. He lacked that grasp of the situation which would have rendered the work of the army fully efficient. Alger stands impeached by the commission appointed to defend him as a man unequal to the task he had assumed. What will the President do now? Will he retain this incompetent?—Chicago Chronicle.

## McKinley on McKinleyism.

Careful consideration of the President's Boston speeches does not convince one that it contains a message of any value to the people in solving the Philippine puzzle. With suave facility, McKinley slips out from under the responsibility and leaves the burden for Congress to bear, washing his hands of the whole matter and saying with meagrous amiability: "I await your pleasure, gentlemen."

This is not the attitude of a leader, but of a trimmer, and sadly enough this latter is McKinley's customary attitude. But the President, by virtue of his position, is the leader. He has no right to shuffle the responsibility aside. He said once that he opposed "criminal aggression," and he encouraged that very thing in the Orient. However, McKinley justifies this state of affairs by saying that this is no time to submit questions of liberty to a people engaged in shooting down their rescuers. But the Philippines find difficulty in recognizing their rescuers.

In response to this claim of the President that the Philippines were entrusted to us by the hands of war, Andrew Carnegie says: "The Philippines have been entrusted to us solely by the unexpected demand for them made by the President himself after he had suddenly changed his mind, which was at first that we should not burden ourselves with them. The Philippine burden is not chargeable to the war. This is the President's own Pandora box—his New Year's gift to his country, for which he alone is responsible. Neither Congress nor the people had any voice in the matter. But one need not wonder why he should now attempt to evade the responsibility, since he tells us that 'Every red drop, whether from the veins of an American soldier or a misguided Filipino, is anguish to my heart.' His conscience smites him. No wonder. The guilty Macbeth also cried out: 'Thou canst not say I did it.'"

This being the case, it would be more satisfactory to the American people if the President would make fewer fine phrases and would put himself on record concerning his Philippine policy.—Chicago Democrat.

## Bimetallism.

When this nation enjoyed the benefits of bimetallism prosperity was general. The farmer and the wage-earner, the merchant and the mechanic were contented and happy. Since gold monometallism has practically held sway the condition of the masses has gradually grown more unendurable. Poverty has increased and discontent has grown to be almost universal. To be sure, the money dealers have waxed fat. Wall street has boomed, trusts have flourished and the classes have grown more powerful, to the injury and impoverishment of the masses. It is easy to account for this condition of affairs. When silver was demonetized values in real estate and the prices of products fell and have continued to fall because gold increased in purchasing power. Every obligation of long standing is now twice or three times as hard to pay, and the dealers and holders of gold get the benefit, while the owners of property are made to suffer.

There will be no relief from this condition of affairs so long as the gold monopoly continues to be maintained, and the gold monopoly will not end so

long as the Republican party holds power. That there should be alleged Democrats who advocate the robbery of the people by the gold conspirators is a matter of sincere regret to all men who love the people. They who work to retain the present oppressive condition of monetary affairs are not friends of the masses, but are of and for the classes.

Over 6,500,000 voters cast their ballots for bimetallism in 1896. No presidential candidate appealed more earnestly to the hearts of the masses than did William J. Bryan. This great advocate of bimetallism is still dear to the masses and in 1900 the battle for popular rights will be resumed and fought to a successful finish.

## Poor Whitewash.

Now that the whitewashing committee appointed by the President for the alleged purpose of investigating the conduct of the war has made its report, it may be concluded that its members preferred to give its opinions rather than facts. Its opinion is that the army beef was not chemically treated by the contractors. Where are its facts? Did it take any pains to discover the actual condition of affairs? Did it call on the soldiers who were made ill by the army beef to testify? None of these things was done, but opinions are given with the greatest show of confidence.

In this connection the New York Journal, among other pertinent questions to the commissioners, asks: "Have you not confined your efforts to bringing out whitewashing evidence? You have, in substance, done nothing more than gather together the evidence of men who knew, or pretended to know, nothing detrimental. Did you ever hear of the man in Texas accused of murder? He was told that ten men had testified that they saw him kill his victim. He replied: 'That's nothing. I'll get a hundred and fifty men in Texas to swear they didn't see me kill him.' Has not the commission been working to get together the 'hundred and fifty' who did not see the beef embalmed?"

## Democratic Burden.

While the Democrats are united on all important issues, the Republican party is torn into shreds. Its national representatives are grouped into countless factions, each laboring to deprive the others of political power, and all hopelessly drifting further and further apart.

One group extols "the white man's burden" policy; another "the brown man's burden," while yet a third dolefully chants the refrain of the black man's burden. They have created discussions in both the army and navy. Competent and fearless generals and naval commanders have been made the victims of their puerile jealousies. In their ranks are proud imperialists and cadaverous expansionists, hypocritical philanthropists and plundering Corsairs. They have twisted and distorted the national constitution to that degree that Thomas Jefferson himself might mistake it for a proclamation made by George III.

Without a common purpose, other than the fostering of trusts, the many factions within the Republican party are fast disintegrating it. In its dissolution lies the hope of the plain people. To right the monstrous wrongs it has inflicted is the Democratic burden.

## No End to Trusts.

There is no end to the formation of trusts. New combines are organizing with a rush. Old combines are enlarging their scope and crushing out competition. The record for one day in New York shows that five great organizations were created for the express purpose of devouring the small consumers.

Every necessity of life will soon be in the clutches of the trusts, and the people, while suffering from this condition of affairs, seem helpless to discover a remedy. If they would reflect that the Republican party fosters the trusts and that the Democratic party opposes the trusts they would see that the remedy lies in placing the Democratic party in power.

## Lower Wages a Certain Result.

There is no doubt that the unwaranted advance in the price of commodities by combinations of capital, which are now rife, is endangering the prosperity of the country. Assuredly as prices are illegitimately advanced the consumption of American products will decrease. The irony of it all is that the advance in the prices of commodities must eventually be accompanied by lower wages to the working men.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## Political Potpourri.

The length of a Senatorial deadlock is now regarded by experts as the best index to the price of votes.

The Standard Oil Company is now satisfied that the recent defiance of the Supreme Court by its attorneys was not a serious performance, but merely a light comedy.

The last chapter of John Sherman's "Memoirs" will appear in time to have some influence on the next Presidential election. Mr. McKinley's blue pencil can't reach the manuscript.

American capital did not seek foreign investment under bimetallism, but under the gold standard we shall attempt to develop every country except our own. Imperialism and an exodus of capital go together.

## BIG FOOT WALLACE.

Adventurous Career of the Most Remarkable Man in Texas.

"Bigfoot" Wallace is dead. When he gave up the ghost on his ranch near Devine the most remarkable man in Texas had ceased to live. He was 81 years old.

All the romance of sixty years of border life was crowded into his adventurous career. At the age of 20 he left his home at Lexington, Va., and went to Texas for the express purpose of avenging the death of his brother, who was captured and slain by Mexicans in 1836. He was a participant in the remarkable struggles on the Texas border before the war with Mexico, and was everywhere known as a fearless fighter and an implacable foe. His name was for more than fifty years a household word in Texas.

In the gloomy dungeons of Perote it took seven giant Mexicans to throw this struggling Texan to the earth and bind him. After he had lain fourteen days chained hand and foot face downward to a rock, without food or water, when the things were cut and the rivets forced apart his first act was to spring at one of his tormentors and try to throttle him.

His Christian name was William Anderson Wallace, and he was the third son of Andrew Wallace, of Rockbridge County, Virginia, and was born nearly 83 years ago in the brick house now occupied by his grand-nephew, W. B. Wallace, who resides about a mile from Lexington, Va. W. A. Wallace was of revolutionary stock. His grandfather, Col. Wm. S. Wallace, was a soldier of



BIG FOOT WALLACE.

the revolution, and four of Col. Wallace's brothers were associated with him in the service.

Wm. A. Wallace grew up a quiet country boy of huge frame and great strength and was a close associate of the pleasant set of Lexington youth of whom but one is now living, ex-Mayor John W. Haughawant. His quiet life was interrupted in the fall of 1837 by the news that his elder brother, Samuel Wallace, who had some years before emigrated to the Texas frontier, had been killed in the Llanin massacre by the Mexicans. The news aroused in his breast a stern determination to avenge his brother's death, and in a few weeks, accompanied by two other young men of Rockbridge, he set out for Texas to carry out his purpose. He brought a valuable volunteer to the army of Texas, and the testimony of his story is that the death of his brother was avenged many times over in Mexican blood. He was one of the famous band of Mexican and Indian fighters known as Hay's Rangers, from the name of their commander, himself a Rockbridge man from the family who named Hay's creek, a stream in the county.

Wallace's record is attested by the fact that though he never enjoyed a higher rank than lieutenant, his name is honored among Texans as one of the most famous in the military history of the Lone Star State. He was a member of the famed Mier expedition, and in the lot-drawing prescribed by the Mexicans, fortune favored him and he drew a white bean, and his life was spared, but he was kept for a long time as a prisoner.

The adventures which gave him the name "Big Foot," were in a long and bloody encounter with a huge chief of the Lipan tribe of Indians, known as "Big Foot." Wallace killed his antagonist after being severely wounded himself, and thenceforth "Big Foot" was applied to him. In his late years he was liberally pensioned by the State of Texas in appreciation of his services.

He was a man of massive frame, great strength and unfinching, dauntless courage. He is survived by one brother, Alexander Wallace, who resides several miles from Lexington, Va., near Glasgow. "Big Foot" never married.

## ESTHER AND MORDECAI'S TOMB.

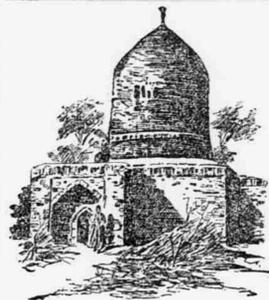
A Discovery of Great Interest to Biblical Students.

The tomb of Esther and Mordecai, the famous characters in the Biblical book of Esther, has been discovered in Hamadan, Persia, and the inscriptions on the sarcophagi and the tomb itself, read and translated, says the New York Herald. This discovery is most timely, for some writers have tried to discredit the Biblical story and the festival of Purim, which goes back to it for a basis.

Every reader of Scripture is familiar with that strange tale of the Jewish maiden whose beauty so touched the King of Persia that he took her for his wife and placed her on the throne by his side. The Jews of Hamadan show this tomb of the hero and heroine of the Bible story to all travelers with no small pride, for in it lies their title to nobility, one of their own people having actually reigned with the king.

This tomb has evidently been added to at various periods, and is now sixty feet high. The entrance is to the left of the center, leading into an outer pas-

sage. To the left is the tomb of some ancient savage, and to the right the tomb of an old physician, with a stand bearing lamps and oil in front of it. A wall separates the sacred part from this outer section. At the western end a door leads to the principal part of the tomb. To the right is Mordecai's tomb and to the left Esther's, separated from each other by a corridor, along which



TOMB OF ESTHER AND MORDECAI.

pilgrims pass going around the sarcophagi. In a niche is a scroll of the law, and an ostrich egg is suspended beneath the dome, as is the custom in all Persian tombs.

The sarcophagi are made of a dark wood, evidently of great antiquity, and are covered with inscriptions in Hebrew. Fac similes of the inscriptions have been taken from plaster impressions now in the possession of Dr. Zadoc Kahn, chief rabbi of France.

## LONG MESSAGE FOR HIS PIPE.

Telegraph Operator Wired Through Four Countries.

The telegraph office of the London-Brussels and London-Paris cable companies are directly opposite to each other in one of those narrow streets of London where one hardly has room enough to change his mind.

The operators are good friends, and often when work is slow cross to each other to have a friendly chat.

It happened during the English Sunday war that the operators were kept constantly at their instruments, not having time for calls. The operator of the Paris cable discovered that he had left his pipe on the table of his colleague across the way the night previous.

To go over for it was an impossibility. The clicking of the instrument would not permit even rising from his chair. He could not catch the eye of his friend to communicate to him by signs.

He called the Dover office to connect him with Calais, across the channel; then the operator there put him on with Paris, thence with Chalons, Coblenz, Brussels, Ostend and back to England with his comrade across the way.

Then he sent the following message: "If it is possible for you to return my



HOW HE GOT HIS PIPE.

pipe without its being compelled to follow the route of my dispatch, please do so immediately." His friend happened to have an assistant, who took the pipe over at once.

This message traveled through England, France, Germany, Belgium and England.

## Getting Even.

It is not always easy to punish a boor without losing one's temper, but a London paper tells how a boat-load of sailors, on shore-leave from a man-of-war, did it good-naturedly and without violence.

As they journeyed up the roadway into the Cornish village, a gentleman's wagonette passed. One of the tars thoughtlessly jumped on the step behind.

"Git orf there!" shouted the coachman, and being a churlish sort of fellow, he lashed the sailor viciously across the face with his whip. That was enough.

In an instant the other eleven blues had closed round and stepped the trap, the boatswain's mate in command. "Tention!" cried he, and "tention there was. 'Dismount the gun!' he shouted, and it seemed as if every bluejacket carried a whole carpenter's outfit.

In three minutes they had taken the wagonette into one hundred and seventy-two pieces, and that without so much as scratching one bit of paint or losing a solitary screw. They laid them all out neatly on the stony road, and the boatswain's mate, after inspecting the job, cried, "Good! Dismiss!"

He—Why did you fail to recognize me on the street to-day? She—I didn't see you. He—That's strange. I saw you twice. She—Oh, that probably accounts for it. I never notice a man in that condition.—Chicago News.

When a girl thinks she is better looking than she really is, it spoils her for what little good looks she has.

## LADY CURZON IN INDIA.

What It Means to Be a Viceroy's Wife—Social Demands on Vicereignty.

Under the title "The American Girl Who Leads an Empire," Edward Page Gaston writes interestingly in the Woman's Home Companion of the responsibilities undertaken by Lady Curzon: "It sometimes devolves upon the wife of the Viceroy to give audience to a native Maharajah alone, when it is her duty to advance and meet him on the threshold, and duly wave him to a seat, after which her American tact prompts her to speak of the satisfaction it is to see him in her home, to inquire after the health of her distinguished guest and his family, and to pay him all the usual compliments of the season. As the ladies of the vicerealty generally make it understood that they can accept no gifts of value from their subjects the exchange of tokens is confined to photographs.

"Two thousand guests are sometimes present at the state balls, when the viceregal party is conducted by an imposing procession to and from the assembly, which is opened by the quadrille of honor at about ten o'clock. After this Lord and Lady Curzon hold a reception, and the warm climate makes these wearing events upon the hosts and hostess. That the social administration of Lady Curzon will not fall behind those of her predecessors was evidenced by orders for thirty-five thousand invitations, programs and cards of various sorts being given in London previous to her departure for India.

"One of the delicate duties of the lady of the viceregal mansion is to learn the rules of management governing the native servants, for these have their places as unalterably fixed by caste as persons in higher stations. In the bedchamber service there is not one or two brisk chambermaids to do up a room as in America, but the various items in the almost trifling work are divided among seven or eight men servants, and this is the rule throughout an Indian establishment. Lady Curzon's body servant stands or sleeps outside the door to her room constantly, and when she goes to drive alone another attendant rides in the carriage with her, and at any time would give his life for her protection."

## FURNISHED HOUSES.

Are Rented by the Fashionables for the Short Term Season.

Now that it has become the habit of New-Yorkers to remain out of the city for longer periods than they formerly did, the furnished house has become a much more important element in the real estate business. This same tendency has been noted in London, where it is no longer considered necessary to the maintenance of one's position that a house which is to be occupied for only a few months should be kept throughout the entire year. It is said that Americans who go there for the season are now in the habit of taking a house when possible rather than living in a hotel at a greater expense and with less certainty of comfort. The convenience of the furnished house may be a very great one to the tenant, but it is a highly profitable form of enterprise to the landlords, who, in addition to the advances in price paid for the use of furniture, are in the habit of receiving for a few months the same price that would be paid for a whole year. The prices demanded for furnished houses are very high, and they are dangerous speculations only when they are not taken by the beginning of every winter season, which is commonly supposed to be from about the middle of November to the 1st of December. After this later date the rent asked for the furnished house declines steadily and the profits of the landlord are diminished. This loss is less in the case of those who are in the habit of occupying the house until it is rented, but as a general rule the percentage of loss is likely to be considerable when the house is not rented promptly. The demand for such house has been so great in recent years that the number available has increased in spite of the risks.—New York Sun.

## Two Irish Stories.

One day, hearing a knock at the door, a mistress asked her Irish servant who it was that called.

"It was a gentleman, ma'am, looking for the wrong house," was the reply. A workman repairing the roof of one of the highest buildings in Dublin lost his footing and fell. Striking a telegraph line in his fall, he managed to grasp it. "Hang on for your life!" shouted a fellow workman. Some of the spectators rushed off to get a mattress on which he could drop. But the workman, after holding on for a few seconds longer, suddenly cried out: "Stand from under!" dropped and lay senseless in the street. He was brought to the hospital, and on recovery was asked why he did not hang on longer. "Shure, I was afraid the wire wud brake," he feebly replied.

## Trouble in the Camp.

"There seemed to be a rather acrimonious discussion going on as I went by headquarters."

"Yes," said the Salvation Army captain sadly. "Brother Jones, who beats the drum, happened to say to Brother Smith, who does most of the preaching, that actions spoke louder than words."—Indianapolis Journal.

## Other Troubles.

"Doesn't your broken engagement at the beginning of a new year make you unutterably sad, Archibald?"

"No; a man can't die of a broken heart when he has to hustle for his next meal or go hungry."

"I have a splendid car for muscle," said the complacent young man.

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, regretfully, "but you don't sing with your car."

# THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

## A "Fifty-Cent Dollar."

The chief and constantly repeated argument against free coinage is that it would "ruin the country." How? we ask. Why, it is replied, we would at once slump to a silver basis, and our dollars would only be worth 50 cents each. This, of course, assumes the entire case. We deny that the free coinage of both metals would cause the United States to slump to a silver basis, and we demand the proof. We challenge the gold people to even give one good reason for so believing. They cannot point to a single case in history which is at all parallel, in support of their claim. But let us concede for a moment that the result would be a "slump to the silver basis." How would that ruin us? The answer is that the dollar would only be worth 50 cents. This, however, is another assumption, not only unwarrantable, but involving an impossibility. What is meant, of course, is that the dollar would only be worth 50 cents in gold. Nobody denies that the silver dollar would be worth 100 cents in silver. But the silver dollar hammered into a piece of bullion is worth more than 50 cents now. If we were to go to an exclusively silver basis, it would certainly increase the demand for silver and raise its value compared with gold. If we lost all of our gold, we would certainly obtain a very considerable amount of silver to take its place, for it is a fundamental principle in economics that every nation must have its distributive share of the world's money. The free coinage of silver would certainly not diminish the aggregate supply. So, as we have no more than our share now, if we should lose our gold, we must get silver to take its place. The effect of all this would be to increase the demand for silver and lessen the demand for gold. A man who knows enough to raise an umbrella when it rains, ought to be able to see that this must necessarily enhance the value of silver and lower the value of gold, thus bringing them nearer together than they now are. Hence that "50-cent dollar" would be an impossibility.

## Goldbug Literature.

From a quite extensive reading of goldbug literature, candor compels me to admit that its fallacies are not all due to conscious hypocrisy. The late Mr. Harter, in a carefully prepared speech in Congress, declared that the effect of free coinage would be to reduce all our money down to two-thirds of its then present value and instantly, as a consequence of that change in the value of our money, a farm then worth \$12,000 in gold would become worth but \$8,000 in silver money; and Mr. Edward Atkinson, in a private discussion with this writer, insisted that free coinage would drive gold out of use and all our other money would fall to two-thirds of its gold value, and instantly wages and the price of all commodities would fall off one-third. Similar instances of imbecility on stilts could be added ad nauseam.

There is widespread and gross ignorance as to what a change in the value of money is, what it means, how caused, how ascertained, and what are the forces and what the law controlling such change.—E. D. Stark.

## Silver Night Schools.

The First Congressional District of Illinois is being organized for the campaign of 1900. Financial night schools and home circle clubs are organized in every precinct. The money question is briefly explained and the various reforms advocated in the interest of labor are carefully studied. The listeners are appealed to, not on the grounds of self-interest, but from a Christian spirit of love to fellowmen who themselves are more than crushed by the present financial and industrial system. The night school department is self-supporting and organizers who devote their time to the work receive the regular union scale of wages. A book and literature exchange is established in connection with each school, and is supported at a small cost to members.

## Money and Property Value.

It is estimated that the total value of all the property in the country is from thirty to forty times the amount of money. That is to say, each dollar in money sustains from thirty to forty dollars of property. It can do this because only a small portion of the property is offered for sale at one time. If it were all thrown on the market at once, to be sold for cash, it could bring no more than the existing supply of money. As a matter of fact, it would not bring so much, because those who have the money would not be likely to part with the whole of it. But it could not possibly bring any more than the whole.

## A Fine Lesson in Courtesy.

During the 6 o'clock rush for the street cars two women simultaneously entered a crowded Indiana avenue car. A large man made room for the smaller of the two women, in appearance a working girl, while the more fashionably dressed girl remained standing. "Thank you very much," said the first girl, while the other stared over their heads. The man looked uncomfortably at the young woman standing, and finally offered her his seat, which she accepted without a word.

"Thank you very much," reiterated the first little girl, with a sly smile. "Beg pardon?" said the haughty neighbor, while several persons laughed. "Nothing personal," she replied. "I was just thanking the gentleman in behalf of our sex."—Chicago Inter Ocean.